

CLAIMS

1. An isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, that dissociates from human TNF α with a K_d of 1×10^{-8} M or less and a K_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, both determined by surface plasmon resonance, and neutralizes human TNF α cytotoxicity in a standard *in vitro* L929 assay with an IC_{50} of 1×10^{-7} M or less.

2. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which dissociates from human TNF α with a K_{off} rate constant of $5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, .

3. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which dissociates from human TNF α with a K_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less.

4. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which neutralizes human TNF α cytotoxicity in a standard *in vitro* L929 assay with an IC_{50} of 1×10^{-8} M or less.

5. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which neutralizes human TNF α cytotoxicity in a standard *in vitro* L929 assay with an IC_{50} of 1×10^{-9} M or less.

6. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which neutralizes human TNF α cytotoxicity in a standard *in vitro* L929 assay with an IC_{50} of 1×10^{-10} M or less.

7. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which is a recombinant antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof.

8. The isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 1, which inhibits human TNF α -induced expression of ELAM-1 on human umbilical vein endothelial cells.

9. An isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, with the following characteristics:

a) dissociates from human TNF α with a K_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less, as determined by surface plasmon resonance;

b) has a light chain CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 3 by a single alanine substitution at position 1, 4, 5, 7

or 8 or by one to five conservative amino acid substitutions at positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and/or 9;

c) has a heavy chain CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 4 by a single alanine substitution at position 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 or 11 or by one to five conservative amino acid substitutions at positions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and/or 12.

10. The isolated human antibody of claim 9, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from human TNF α with a K_{off} rate constant of $5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less.

11. The isolated human antibody of claim 9, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, which dissociates from human TNF α with a K_{off} rate constant of $1 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$ or less.

12. An isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, with a light chain variable region (LCVR) having a CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 3 by a single alanine substitution at position 1, 4, 5, 7 or 8, and with a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having a CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 4 by a single alanine substitution at position 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 or 11.

13. The isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 12, wherein the LCVR further has a CDR2 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5 and the HCVR further has a CDR2 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

14. The isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 13, wherein the LCVR further has CDR1 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7 and the HCVR has a CDR1 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

15. An isolated human antibody, or an antigen binding portion thereof, with a light chain variable region (LCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

16. The isolated human antibody of claim 15, which has an IgG1 heavy chain constant region.

17. The isolated human antibody of claim 15, which has an IgG4 heavy chain constant region.

18. The isolated human antibody of claim 15, which is a Fab fragment.

19. The isolated human antibody of claim 15, which is a single chain Fv fragment.

20. An isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portions thereof, with a light chain variable region (LCVR) having a CDR3 domain comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26 or with a heavy chain variable region (HCVR) having a CDR3 domain comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 33 and SEQ ID NO: 34.

21. An isolated human antibody, or antigen-binding portion thereof, that neutralizes the activity of human TNF α , chimpanzee TNF α and at least one additional primate TNF α selected from the group consisting of baboon TNF α , marmoset TNF α , cynomolgus TNF α and rhesus TNF α .

22. The isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 21, which also neutralizes the activity of mouse TNF α .

23. The isolated human antibody, or an antigen-binding portion thereof, of claim 21, which also neutralizes the activity of pig TNF α .

24. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a light chain CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 3 by a single alanine substitution at position 1, 4, 5, 7 or 8, or by one to five conservative amino acid substitutions at positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and/or 9.

25. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 24, which encodes an antibody light chain variable region (LCVR).

26. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 25, wherein the CDR2 domain of the antibody LCVR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 5.

27. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 26, wherein the CDR1 domain of the antibody LCVR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 7.

28. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a heavy chain CDR3 domain comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 4, or modified from SEQ ID NO: 4 by a single alanine substitution at position 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 or 11, or by one to five conservative amino acid substitutions at positions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and/or 12.

29. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 28, which encodes an antibody heavy chain variable region (HCVR).

30. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 29, wherein the CDR2 domain of the antibody HCVR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6.

31. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 30, wherein the CDR1 domain of the antibody HCVR comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8.

32. An isolated nucleic acid encoding a CDR3 domain comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 11, SEQ ID NO: 12, SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, SEQ ID NO: 27, SEQ ID NO: 28, SEQ ID NO: 29, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 31, SEQ ID NO: 32, SEQ ID NO: 33 and SEQ ID NO: 34.

33. An isolated nucleic acid encoding an antibody light chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

34. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 33, which encodes the antibody light chain variable region and an antibody light chain constant region.

35. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 34, which is in a recombinant expression vector.

36. An isolated nucleic acid encoding an antibody heavy chain variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

37. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 36, which encodes the antibody heavy chain variable region and an antibody heavy chain constant region.

38. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the antibody heavy chain constant region is an IgG1 constant region.

5 39. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 37, wherein the antibody heavy chain constant region is an IgG4 constant region.

40. The isolated nucleic acid of claim 37, which is in a recombinant expression vector.

10 41. A recombinant expression vector encoding:
a) an antibody light chain having a variable region comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1; and
b) an antibody heavy chain having a variable region comprising the
15 amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

42. A host cell into which the recombinant expression vector of claim 41 has been introduced.

20 43. A method of synthesizing a human antibody that binds human TNF α , comprising culturing the host cell of claim 42 in a culture medium until a human antibody that binds human TNF α is synthesized by the cell.

25 44. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

45. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30 46. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of claim 15 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

47. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity comprising contacting human TNF α with the antibody of claim 1 such that human TNF α activity is inhibited.

35 48. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity comprising contacting human TNF α with the antibody of claim 9 such that human TNF α activity is inhibited.

49. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity comprising contacting human TNF α with the antibody of claim 15 such that human TNF α activity is inhibited.

50. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity in a human subject suffering from a disorder in which TNF α activity is detrimental, comprising administering to the human subject the antibody of claim 1 such that human TNF α activity in the human subject is inhibited.

51. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity in a human subject suffering from a disorder in which TNF α activity is detrimental, comprising administering to the human subject the antibody of claim 9 such that human TNF α activity in the human subject is inhibited.

52. A method for inhibiting human TNF α activity in a human subject suffering from a disorder in which TNF α activity is detrimental, comprising administering to the human subject the antibody of claim 15 such that human TNF α activity in the human subject is inhibited.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein the disorder is sepsis.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the antibody is administered to the human subject together with the cytokine interleukin-6 (IL-6) or is administered to a human subject with a serum or plasma concentration of IL-6 above 500 pg/ml.

55. The method of claim 52, wherein the disorder is an autoimmune disease.

56. The method of claim 55, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis, rheumatoid spondylitis, osteoarthritis and gouty arthritis.

57. The method of claim 55, wherein the autoimmune disease is selected from the group consisting of an allergy, multiple sclerosis, autoimmune diabetes, autoimmune uveitis and nephrotic syndrome.

58. The method of claim 52, wherein the disorder is an infectious disease.

59. The method of claim 52, wherein the disorder is transplant rejection or graft-versus-host disease.

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